



**4 Food Package/Draft Issuance**

*Effective: 3/1/98*

**4.18 Ready-to-Feed Formulas**

*Revised: 4/1/03*

**POLICY:** WIC-approved ready-to-feed formulas may be issued in limited circumstances only and when a CPA approves. If the prescribed formula is not available at a WIC-approved grocery store or pharmacy, a WIC-approved pharmacy is required to order it.

**PROCEDURE:**

**A. APPROVED READY-TO-FEED FORMULAS**

The WIC-approved ready-to-feed formulas are listed on the Food Package Tailoring/Selection Chart and on the WIC Program Formulas and Medical Foods Table (attachment to Policy 4.14).

**B. DETERMINATION OF NEED**

Ready-to-feed formula may be issued only if the CPA determines one of the following conditions.

1. The water has been deemed unsanitary or restricted by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or the local health department. Typical reasons for unsafe water are a nitrate count greater than 10 mg/liter (unsafe for infants less than 6 months of age), and a high bacterial count. Bad taste, cloudiness, etc., are NOT acceptable reasons for issuing ready-to-feed. In such cases, if the family chooses not to use the water, city water may be bottled and obtained for family use as well as for formula preparation.
2. The participant or person caring for this participant may have difficulty correctly diluting the formula. If education is needed, the goal should be to issue powdered or concentrated formula within three to six months.
3. The WIC-approved formula is available only in the ready-to-feed form.

**C. APPROVALS and DOCUMENTATION**

1. CPA approval is required to issue a contract ready-to-feed standard formula.
2. If a non-contract standard ready-to-feed formula is requested, also follow the policy and procedures in Policy 4.16 Non-Contract Standard Formulas and Policy 4.17 Low Iron Formulas.



3. If a special formula in ready-to-feed form is requested, also follow the policy and procedures in Policy 4.15 Special Formulas for Infants and Policy 4.21 Children/Women with Special Needs Food Packages.
4. Unless the formula is available only in ready-to-feed form, document the rationale for the provision of ready-to-feed formula on the Risk Factor/Flow Sheet or other Project-developed form and retain in the participant's file.

**D. AVAILABILITY FOR PURCHASE**

1. Ready-to-feed formulas are generally available at WIC-approved grocery stores.
2. If the prescribed formula is not available at a WIC-approved grocery store, the participant needs to purchase the formula at a WIC-approved pharmacy. If availability at a pharmacy is uncertain, either the participant or the Project needs to call the pharmacy before shopping to assure the formula is available. If the pharmacy does not stock the formula, they are required by their agreement with the WIC Program to order it for the participant.

**E. REASSESSMENT**

The need for ready-to-feed formula must be reassessed at the Infant Update and subsequent certifications and documented in the participant's file.